

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# The City Of Augusta

## *Proclamation*

*IN RECOGNITION of the 2004 World AIDS Campaign – “Women, Girls, HIV, and AIDS”*

*WHEREAS, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection and to the impact of AIDS, and around half of all the people living with HIV in the world are female; and*

*WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Program on AIDS, globally, young women and girls are more susceptible to HIV than men and boys, with studies showing they can be 2.5 times more likely to be HIV-infected as their male counterparts. Their vulnerability is primarily due to inadequate knowledge about AIDS, insufficient access to HIV prevention services, inability to negotiate safer sex, and a lack of female-controlled HIV prevention methods; and*

*WHEREAS, the World AIDS Campaign seeks to raise awareness about and help address the many issues affecting women and girls around HIV and AIDS. All over the world women do not enjoy the same rights and access to employment, property and education as men. Women and girls are also more likely to face sexual violence, which can accelerate the spread of HIV. Across the world between one-fifth and one-half of all girls and young women report their first sexual encounter was forced; and*

*WHEREAS, HIV prevention efforts are failing women and girls as they continue to be infected with HIV by their husbands or long-term partners. Across the developing world the majority of women will be married by age 20 and have higher rates of HIV than their unmarried sexually active peers; and*

*WHEREAS, this year’s World AIDS Campaign, which culminates on WORLD AIDS DAY – 1 December 2004, explores how gender inequality fuels the AIDS epidemic, and is conceived to help accelerate the global response to HIV/AIDS by encouraging people to address female vulnerability to HIV.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Young, Mayor of the City of Augusta, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 1, 2004, as “WORLD AIDS DAY” in Augusta, Georgia, and urge all citizens to take part in activities and observances designed to increase awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS as a global challenge and to challenge all citizens to think about how their thoughts and actions can affect communities and individuals living with HIV/AIDS.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Augusta, Georgia, to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 2004.*

*Mayor*